



PRESCOTT AREA IRIS SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Oh my goodness, summer is just around the corner. We had a great spring with amazing irises in our personal gardens (yep, I saw the pictures) and at our gardens at the Sculpture Garden, Sharlot Hall Museum and at Embry-Riddle. We also had the awesome opportunity this spring to visit the Bloomer-rang Iris Farm owned by our member Marilyn Wiley and her husband. I hope you were able to go visit and see the fields of over 400 cultivars.

We had a wonderful Spring online sale of our potted iris. Hopefully, everyone was able to check out what was available and pick up a couple of 'oh I need that' iris from the store. We were very successful, and I want to make sure I thank Brenda Griffin for taking care of, babysitting, nurturing, and managing our pots since last summer. We had a number of members that went up to Brenda's and helped pull all of the orders, stage them and get them ready for everyone to pick up. A huge thank you to everyone that helped.

So, I said it was successful – drum roll please. Our sales were just over \$2900.00. This is awesome and it goes towards our scholarship and endowment fund at Yavapai College and our other charity donations and expenses.

June 11 & 12 from 8 AM until 4 PM, we are going to have a in person potted iris sale at Brenda's home, 2060 N. Mohave, Chino Valley. This will reduce our potted iris stock and the prices will be EXTREMELY reasonable. This is something everyone should come check out.

We also had a wonderful opportunity this year to thank one of our supporters that has done a lot for us over the years. Mortimer Nursery wanted to plant a large iris display garden at their farm and we were happy

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EVENTS

June 11-12

Potted Iris Sale

8 am– 4pm

6060 N. Mohave, Chino Valley

June 19

Meeting 1:30 pm

Beneficial Insects

Stoneridge, Prescott Valley

SAVE THE DATES

July 5-23 Rhizome digs

July 24 Iris marking party

July 30 Rhizome sale setup

NEW MEMBERS

Jody Bartling/Diana Chapman

Sam Folio

Joy & Bob Knill

Val & Lyle Maxey

Kristeen (Kris) Wood

We are so happy to welcome you. Please join us June 19th.

(President's Cont.) to be able to contribute over 100 pots of named and unnamed irises. They should have an awesome display in the next couple of years. It will be worth the drive to see the bloom.

We are having our meeting in person on June 19th, 1:30 PM at the Stoneridge Community Center. Our speaker, Sally Davidson is with the Highland Center, and she will be speaking on 'Understanding Beneficial Insects'. Ms. Davidson has been volunteering at the Highland Center for about 5 years in the Discovery Garden and as an Educational Docent. She is a teacher and artist with a Master of Science in Multi Resource Management from NAU with an emphasis on Ecological Systems. She applies the ecological principles she learned about Forest Management to her own garden (and inside with houseplants too). While we continue our war against some of the insects that don't have our garden's best interest at heart, it will be great to learn about some of the insects that we can encourage to spend more time in our gardens. Sherry Williams

Summer Blooms From Members Gardens



Buckskin Ruffles
Brenda Griffin



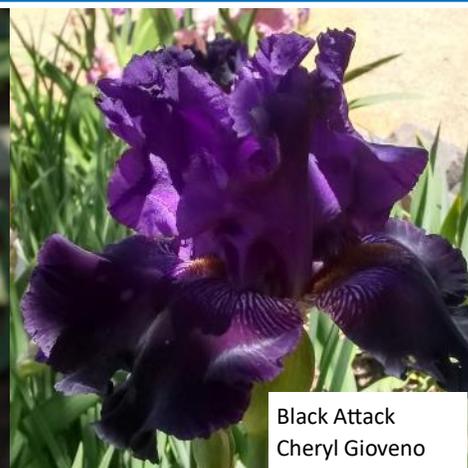
Firebeard
Barb Harlib



Midnight Rival-SPU
Marge Larson



Funday Monday
Bridget Bernardi



Black Attack
Cheryl Gioveno

Birthdays



May, June, July & August Birthdays

Bob Knill	May 4
Johanna Van Klompenburg	May 15
Jody Bartling	May 16
Elaine Montgomery	May 22
Vicki Hughes	May 24
Yvonne Morlan	May 29
Diana Chapman	June 1
Sherry Williams	June 3
Michelle Snyder	June 11
Janet Chabolla	June 13
Janice Warren	June 13
Barbie Harlib	June 17
Gary Miller	June 17
Barbara Kyte	June 23
Tom Ziffer	June 26
Lyle Maxey	July 7
Danielle Stephenson	July 11
John Bernardi	July 14
Paul Coyne	July 23
Sharon Phelps	July 23
Nancy Floyd	August 3
Susan Belding	August 17
Ron Mitchell	August 23
Kathie Mitchell	August 23
Kellie Smith	August 29
Gerry Snyder	August 29

SPURIA IRIS—NOT THE NEW KID ON THE BLOCK

Spurias are a tough, hardy, beardless iris that form magnificent clumps. Their strong stems and long lasting flowers make them an ideal cut flower. The flower resembles a Dutch iris with long thin petals, elongated hafts and prominent style arms. The leaves are sword shaped. Spuria grow slowly but form clumps which may span five to six feet in diameter and reach a height of four to five feet. The modern hybrids feature rounder petals with flaring falls and standards held vertically at 45 degree angles or flat. Colors include white, yellow, lavender, rose, red, brown, blue-violet and dark purple.

Spuria iris originated from the Mediterranean area of Europe. They are also seen in lesser numbers in England, Denmark, Russia, Afghanistan, and western China. Spurias have been in commerce since the late 1800's giving them ample time to become widely distributed.

Spuria irises are classified under the Apogon or beardless subsection of the iris family. The twenty or more species are native to the temperate zone in the band running from Spain and North Africa to India and China. The greatest collection of the species has been found in southern Siberia, always in sunny locations. The largest concentration of growing and hybridizing Spurias is in the sunnier and warmer parts of the U.S., especially California, Arizona, Texas and Missouri.

The Yavapai College sculpture garden Spurias were planted in 2017 as a way to extend the bloom season and to honor Arizona hybridizers, Floyd Wickenkamp, Larry Johnsen, and Dr. B. Charles Jenkins. Now is an excellent time to view the spuria blooms in their full glory. The photos below are a few of the Spurias blooming this year.

(“Spuria Iris”, Tom Abrego, *Basic Iris Culture*, American Iris Society)



Digging season is about to begin!!

Beginning around the 5th of July we can start dividing our iris beds to reduce overcrowding and allow for better growth next year. We will need volunteers to help with digging and amending the iris in our public gardens.

The rhizomes from your personal gardens can be divided and donated to the club for our sale. If you have properly marked/named iris that need to be divided and you need help, let us know.

The rhizomes that are donated to the club are used in our Rhizome Sale that is scheduled for July 31st. The funds raised by this sale are used to fund the scholarship and endowment for horticultural students at Yavapai College as well as other charities and club expenses.

Once the rhizomes are dug, they need to be cleaned (remove any soil, and wash in a solution of bleach (10%) and water. The solution will eliminate any bacteria that may be in your soil and prevent it from being transported to another garden. Be sure the rhizomes are dry before they are donated. Moldy iris will be discarded.

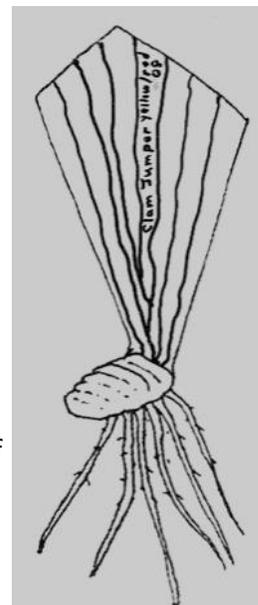
As rhizomes are dug, trimmed and cleaned, they should be placed in separate paper bags or boxes. Mark the rhizome with their name on the middle leaf using a permanent felt marker. Include your name on the bag or container.

Donated rhizomes can be delivered to either Sherry Williams or Brenda Griffin's home. If pick up is needed, let us know.

We have a marking party (great food, fun, & people) at Brenda's home to trim the rhizomes and mark them with their names & prices for the sale. The marking party is on July 24th and for members that haven't been able to attend a marking party – it is really is a fun social event. Lots of talking, eating and laughing while we work.

Addresses: Sherry – 6571 E. Dalton Way, Prescott Valley

Brenda – 2060 N. Mohave, Chino Valley



Marked and trimmed rhizome



Ascent of Angels– Embry Riddle Fighters Memorial
Sherry Williams



Standing Proud - Embry Riddle Fighters
Memorial Sherry Williams

CONTACT US

President: Sherry Williams
duckwalkdesigns@gmail.com

Membership: Robin Walter
redstickrob@gmail.com

Publicity: Bill Walter
Tasmania.bill@gmail.com

Sculpture Garden: Dennis
Luebkin dlobkin@g.com

Prescott Area Iris Society
PO Box 11918
Prescott, AZ 86304